



VA Boston Healthcare OEF/OIF Bulletin

"Your interest and participation is the strength of this bulletin."



*****First-Time Publication Greetings*****



Welcome Home and Thank You for Your Service...

Hi, I'm Anthony Falvey. I am an OIF Veteran and have been working for the VA Boston Healthcare System (Brockton, Jamaica Plain, and West Roxbury Campuses) for over 2 years. During my time with the VA Boston Healthcare System (VA BHS) I have noticed (as an employee) and experienced (as a patient) recognition and exemplary care. Through my involvement with the **Latest Generation Committee**, I aspire to encourage and inform fellow Veterans about the many benefits of VA Healthcare programs. Furthermore, there is a multitude of events and **Outreach Programs** available to OEF/OIF Veterans. If you have been home for a little while and have some time- maybe today is the day to visit a VA BHS Campus. A good start would be to check-in with Eligibility and register for VA Healthcare. You may also discover that you are eligible for participation in **cutting edge research** conducted by VA BHS Researchers who are continually developing ways to improve the health care and treatment of Veterans. Stay tuned for information about specific research programs that will be highlighted in future Bulletins. I look forward to contributing to this bulletin and hearing back from readers.

Everyone knows a Service Member/Veteran

Believe it or not, everyone knows a Service Member or a Veteran. Stop and think about it a minute...I'm sure someone will come to mind. The VA BHS has approximately 3400 employees. This represents a good number of employees who may be a Veteran, work with fellow Veterans, have a family member or friend who is a Service Member. I compel readers to take pride and share with fellow readers the Service Member or Veteran they know.

The Veteran I know is **George Clark**. George is a Vietnam Veteran who is a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist for the VA BHS. George assists **Service-Connected** Veterans with challenging life circumstances. George credits his experiences as a Veteran with identifying with Veterans of his generation and current OEF/OIF Veterans. In addition, George mentioned that his familiarity allows him to connect with Veterans about their goals, employment scenarios, and achievement. George can be seen at Jamaica Plain, Brockton, and Causeway Street.

Who's a Service-Member/Veteran that you know?

Strength of the Bulletin: Readers' Contributions/Thoughts... FAQ's

This month's introductory contribution will focus on the importance of listening and following through. When I first came home from Iraq in 2005, paying a visit to the VA BHS was not the first item on my agenda. I was thankful to be alive and wanted to see my family and friends as soon as possible. I remember at the "De-Mobilization Station" (Fort Drum, New York) a VA Representative speaking to a large group of us soldiers. I understood the importance of his speech, however, when I finally arrived home, it seemed as if I was tuning his words out and was delaying my visit to the VA. Finally (some months later), a nagging left knee injury brought me in. I also had ringing in my ears, vision problems, etc. Looking back, it would have been a better decision to visit sooner. As the well-known slogan states, "the sooner the better" - it conveys logic and perhaps truth. To make a long story short, if you have been informed about starting and receiving a tremendous benefit that is entitled to you-why delay?

Photo of the Month Section:

As a former Public Affairs Representative for the U.S. Army, I appreciate inspiring photography. I welcome what you believe is a great photo. There will be a vote on the best photo from the past year.

Before sending a photo:

Please contact me for photo requirements and specifications.



This Month's Photo:

"Noticing the Wingman"

Submitted by Jeremy Shea
(OIF Veteran and Employee,
Brockton Campus)

"I remember taking this picture like it was yesterday. I was on orders to relocate to assist security operations. I noticed our Wingman and took a photo," Jeremy Shea.

This monthly bulletin is published courtesy of the Latest Generation Committee. Its purpose is to show support for returning OEF/OIF Veterans among Employees, their Families and Friends. If you would like to contribute or have a question/concern send an e-mail to: Anthony.Falvey@VA.gov
Visit the VA BHS at www.boston.va.gov